

4-1-1998

University Reporter - Vol. 02, No. 08 - April 1998

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "University Reporter - Vol. 02, No. 08 - April 1998" (1998). 1996-2009, *University Reporter*. Paper 65.

http://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter/65

This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1996-2009, University Reporter by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact library.uasc@umb.edu.

Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 2
Number 8
April 1998

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|-------|
| NIMH Grant Award | 1, 10 |
| Community Breakfast | 2 |
| In Depth with Gaston Institute..... | 3 |
| AIDS Quilt | 4 |
| Wall Street Careers | 5 |
| Economics Curriculum | 5 |
| Standards Conference, Secy's Day | 6 |
| UMB TV Debut, In Memoriam | 6 |
| UMass Boston First, Mass Field Ctr | 7 |
| Child to Work Day, Cancer Fundraiser..... | 7 |
| Campus Notes..... | 8, 9 |
| Puerto Rican Visit | 10 |
| belle hooks | 11 |
| Carson Scholars | 12 |
| Untold Stories | 13 |
| Gen Ed Update..... | 14 |
| Diversity Conference, Forum..... | 15 |
| New Trustee, Labor Forum..... | 15 |
| Flower Show, Commencement, LLOP..... | 16 |

Professor Awarded NIMH Grant for HIV/AIDS Research

This summer, Prof. Deborah Brome of the psychology department will begin working at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) on research that aims to discover critical information on how African American adolescents perceive themselves sexually, how they view male-female relationships, and how these views relate to their effective life skills. The long-term goal of this research is to provide information that can be used to create effectual HIV/AIDS intervention education programs in minority communities.

Brome is one of 12 researchers to be selected to participate in the National Institute of Mental Health's (NIMH) Collaborative HIV Prevention Research in Minority Communities Program. She will receive a \$25,000 stipend, summer salary, and technical assistance from the program, which is based at UCSF. It is a three-year program.

For Brome, conducting research with the purpose of informing HIV/AIDS prevention is just a step away from what she has been working on over the past eight years. "My background is in substance abuse research evaluation, and HIV prevention has always been a part of that," says Brome, who has been a principal evaluator of two five-year Center for Substance Abuse demonstration programs.

One program was a prevention and peer-education program targeting 5th to 10th grade African American adolescents. The other, the New Directions Family Program, targeted families with at least one parent in recovery from drug or alcohol abuse, and children between the ages of 6 and 14. The psychosocial competence of the children was evaluated as an outcome variable of the program.

Brome uses a conceptualization of psychosocial competence which she credits to her mentor, Professor Emeritus Forrest Tyler of the University of Maryland, College Park. It includes three elements: self-

continued on page 10

The University Reporter

External Relations
Third Floor
Quinn Administration Bldg.
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
(617)287-5300

E-mail address:
univ_report@umb.edu

Annemarie Lewis Kerwin
Editor

Annette Fernie
*Staff Reporter and
Production Director*

Stacey Carter-Lane
Staff Reporter

The *University Reporter* is published monthly during the academic year except for the months of June, July and August by the Office of External Relations. It is free to all UMass Boston faculty, staff and students.

Send your news items to:
The *University Reporter* at the above mailing or e-mail address.

Paul White Honored at Community Breakfast

About 160 people attended UMass Boston's 13th Annual Community Breakfast held March 20. W. Paul White, who served in the Massachusetts Legislature for 24 years, received the 1998 Robert H. Quinn Community Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Massachusetts.

A resident of Dorchester, White was elected to the House of Representatives in 1973, where he served until 1988. In 1989 he was elected to the senate seat that represents the 150,000 constituents of the Norfolk and Suffolk districts. He held that position until September 1997, when he left public office to become associate vice president for state and community relations at Boston College.

Over the course of his 24 years in public service, White developed and enacted legislation in the areas of banking, community health, homeless services and judicial reform. He was a champion of working men and women and a staunch supporter of education.

Elected officials, business leaders, clergy members, and civic and non-profit leaders from a wide variety of organizations were on hand to honor White. The Boston Police Department, Citizen's Bank, Boston Edison, the South Boston Residents' Group, and Codman Square Health Center were but a few of the nearly 90 organizations represented at the breakfast.

UMass President William Bulger, Chancellor Sherry Penney and Vice Chancellor Edward O'Malley each shared remarks highlighting the achievements of White and Quinn.

"And so today, our 12th annual community breakfast, is absolutely a celebration of shared ideals: the ideals of Paul White, of Robert Quinn, of this university, and of all of you," Penney said. "Robert Quinn is one of the true founding fathers of UMass Boston," Penney said. Quinn co-sponsored legislation in 1964 that created the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Quinn praised White for being the type of person who can be called on for anything. "You know what the 'W' stands for now — whatever, whenever, wherever," Quinn said of White's first initial.

In his acceptance speech, White thanked UMass Boston for the honor, for giving the award in Quinn's name, and for being a good neighbor. "The University is a great and valued neighbor," White said. "Just by being here it raises the tide and property value for all of us," he said of UMass Boston.

White referred to the Community Service Award as "frosting on the cake." "This is a presentation that I will long appreciate," he said.

In Depth With The Gaston Institute

UMass Boston counts among its students this year 454 of Latino background. Native or foreign-born, they represent countries as diverse as Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru and Colombia, countries with different national interests and agendas. It's a diverse group, yet they find themselves united by their experiences as Latinos in the United States.

"What often surface as big differences between Latinos from different countries, even boundary disputes or wars, tend to fade when youth from those countries come together," says Prof. Andres Torres, recently appointed co-director of the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. "Latino students find that when they come here, their identities become more aggregate," says Torres. "Differences tend to dissolve."

The Gastón Institute works in a variety of ways to promote the interest of the Latino community, on campus and off. It is the only public policy institute in New England to focus on an improved understanding of the experiences of Latino communities in the Commonwealth.

What is the most central issue for Latinos? According to Torres, the foremost issue is lack of visibility in the political process. Presently, there is not a single member of the Latino community in the Massachusetts House of Representatives or the Senate.

So a priority for the Institute will be to facilitate a dialogue on what a Latino political agenda will look like. While acknowledging that it is up to the community to create the agenda, the Gastón, says Torres, will work to help the community articulate one. "It's our role to facilitate these kinds of dialogues, and I can't think of a more important mission," he says.

"The Gastón Institute doesn't get involved in partisan politics, but it is contacted all the time by those who are interested in finding out about conditions in the community, who want information and research on the problems, challenges, and assets of the community, and are thinking of experts on policy issues," says Torres. "So whatever we can do to facilitate greater visibility of Latino issues is what we can be counted upon to do."

Numerous other activities and projects are also underway. "Our publications, our Speaker's Series, and the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program (LLOP) are all activities we don't let up on, because they are our stock in trade," says Torres. Other projects and activities include recruiting faculty for specific research projects, bringing Latino writers and artists to campus, and offering technical assistance when requested. The Institute was recently approached by the City of New Bedford for help with a survey of its Latino community and their needs.

"This is the kind of thing we often do, although we get no reward," say Torres. "But we feel strongly that the Gastón is bound to do this as part of its mission. We want to be seen as the place where the Latino and general public can come for policy and research on Latinos in the Commonwealth."

The Institute was recently asked to co-sponsor a one-day emergency meeting on HIV/AIDS in the Latino community as part of the "Lead for Life" initiative of the Harvard University AIDS Institute on May 4. This very important meeting aims to mobilize a stronger response to the AIDS/HIV threat within the Latino community.

Next year, the Gastón Institute will celebrate its tenth anniversary, an appropriate time to celebrate its unique standing as the only institute devoted to Latino policy and research in New England. Torres says that much of the credit for its success lies with the Institute's devoted staff. "A key element of our success has been our staff and the faculty who have worked with us. The Gaston is the product of a community initiative, and we're proud to be here, still expanding, and a key part of the linkage between the University and the public," he says.

Torres was appointed co-director of the Institute in January. He will serve as acting director next year when long-time director Edwin Melendez is on sabbatical.

UMass Boston Hosts AIDS Memorial Quilt

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, an international memorial to those who have died of AIDS, will be shown April 23–25 in Clark Athletic Center.

Featuring 960 panels, the display is one of the largest in the country this year and UMass Boston's first hosting of the Quilt. At least 7,000 people are expected to visit.

The opening ceremony will be held on April 23 at 10 a.m. Volunteers will unfold the Quilt and begin reading aloud names of some of those lost to AIDS.

Donations collected at the UMass Boston display will benefit Camp Colors, a summer day camp at Lasell College in Newton for children with HIV and AIDS.

BRIEF QUILT HISTORY

The Quilt began in San Francisco as one person's protest in June of 1987. Propelled by death and tragedy, a man named Cleve Jones spray-painted his friend's name, Marvin Feldman, onto a grave-size piece of cloth. Others joined the effort by making panels of their own. Soon, thousands were adding names and expressing emotions by creating hand-made memorials for loved ones they lost to AIDS.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. Since 1987, more than three million people have visited the Quilt, and more than \$1.4 million has been raised for AIDS service organizations.

STILL TIME FOR NEW PANELS

The entire AIDS Memorial Quilt, the largest example of a community art project, includes more than 44,000 panels made by family members, friends, lovers, co-workers and others.

Jean MacGowan of the Music Department has conducted four quilting bees at the Boston Living

VISITING THE QUILT

Where: Clark Athletic Center

Dates: April 23–25

Times: 10 a.m.–7 p.m. (Th, Fri.)

10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.)

Info: Call 7-7983

Center for designing and sewing new panels. The bees were almost like workshops for the small groups of attendees, MacGowan said. "It's quite an evening," she said. "Nothing maudlin or sad or teary."

Panels are 3-feet-by-6-feet — the size of a human grave — and are often made of materials not traditionally associated with quilting. One panel being sewn in Boston contains a red leather jumpsuit. Among the Quilt's thousands of panels are items such as Barbie dolls, car keys, cowboy boots, love letters and wedding rings.

All new Quilt panels that meet specifications will be accepted during the three-day display. For guidelines, contact MacGowan at 287-6980.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

It's not too late to get involved with this historic campus event. Volunteers are needed to unfold panels, read names and assist in other ways. Call Cara Flynn of

Sponsored Projects at 7-5370 to find out how you can help.

ONE STUDENT'S VISION

One student's feeling of isolation was the catalyst for bringing the AIDS Memorial Quilt to UMass Boston. When Steve Cicirelli first came to campus, no one wanted to talk about HIV, the virus for which he tested positive 11 years ago, he said. Hired to run the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Center, Cicirelli made bringing the Quilt to campus a goal.

After speaking with the NAMES Project Foundation in San Francisco, Cicirelli refused to shy away from the hard work ahead. In April 1997, he convened a committee, now 20 members strong.

"I had to do a little bit of a sales job. I had to assure people that I thought it could be done," he said. "I found that after the first few people came on board, people were calling asking us if they can be on the committee," Cicirelli recalled.

"I think it's really unique in the sense that despite the differences people have, we're all together for this one event," he said.

For the graduating senior, bringing the Quilt to campus culminates Cicirelli's well-known campus service. "I couldn't imagine a better way to end my college career here at UMass Boston," he said.

Alumnus Gives Scoop on Wall Street Career

At least 70 UMass Boston students willingly accepted insider tips from a Wall Street executive. Legal tips, these were, from alumnus Eric Harris '87 on how to break into the financial services industry.

A vice president in the investment banking group of Merrill Lynch & Co., Harris flew to Boston for the Feb. 18 career discussion, held in the Student Lounge of the Wheatley Building. At Merrill Lynch, he focuses on strategic advising, financing, initial public offers, and restructuring for transportation, capital goods and aerospace/defense-related companies.

"Make yourself marketable," Harris repeated throughout his presentation. "I believe that's why you go to school, why you take a job, is so that you can develop a

skill set to make yourself more marketable," he said.

Students should take advantage of every job, regardless of what it is, to create "the broadest platform that will allow you to do what you can do," he said. "Always position yourself to do the best you can do."

Opportunities in the financial services industry are abundant, especially for those willing to work long hours and travel extensively, Harris said.

Harris was candid in answering varied student questions. What gives him job satisfaction? The money's good, but Harris also enjoys closing deals, providing solutions for companies and spending hours in conversation with heads of companies. "It gives

me tremendous exposure to Fortune 100 companies," he said.

How did he prepare for job interviews? Harris practiced in a mirror, repeatedly asking "why do I want to be in investment banking?" "Have a rap. Be prepared," he told students.

What were some of his failures? Rejections from three business schools, jobs, and failed business deals are a few. "If you don't fail, you can't succeed," he said. "You have to ask yourself, 'Am I happy being status quo, or am I willing to take a risk.'"

Born in Cambridge and raised in Revere, Harris earned his bachelor's from UMass Boston in 1987. He received his master's from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. His visit was sponsored by Career Services in the Advising Center.

Professor Oversees Pilot Curriculum for Boston Public Schools

Five years ago, Professor Lal Chugh, chair of the accounting and finance department, joined the Financial Executives Institute (FEI), a national professional organization of 14,000 business executives with an active Boston-area chapter. He now serves as director of academic relations for the Boston FEI, whose membership he describes as a "who's who of the local financial world."

Chugh is working with financial officers and representatives of local colleges and universities on an important project—the development of an economics curriculum for grades 4, 8, and 10, presently being piloted in six Boston Public Schools.

The pilot program has been developed in response to new economics curriculum requirements mandated by the State Board of Education. Students will be tested in economics on examinations to be given for the first time this year to all Massachusetts students at these grade levels.

The FEI has contributed \$45,000 to the curriculum development, which is being prepared by Boston University. Co-sponsor of the project is the Boston Plan for Excellence in Public Schools. The schools involved include Boston Latin and Charlestown High Schools, the McCormack

Middle School, and the Farragut Elementary School. Two more schools are expected to participate.

"We're training two teachers in each of the schools in a standard concept of economics with a historical context," says Chugh. "The curriculum is general enough to allow the teachers to incorporate their own ideas and examples, and be creative in the classroom," he adds. An independent educator will conduct assessment of the pilot program. If successful, the program will train more teachers and bring the curricula to more school districts.

.....

"Surviving the Standards War" Topic of April Conference

Standards determine everything from the composition of steel alloys used to construct the nation's bridges to the exact amount held by the tablespoon used to measure sugar in your favorite recipe. Standards and issues of conformity have taken on critical importance to the survival of companies competing in the new global economy.

"Surviving the Standards Wars," a day-long conference examining developments in measurement standards and their impacts on industry, commerce, and the sciences worldwide, will take place Friday, April 24, at the John Hancock Conference Center, 14 Trinity Place, Boston.

Amy Zuckerman, a journalist and expert on standards will serve as conference moderator. She is the author of several books on standards, including the *International Standards Desk Reference*, and writes a weekly column on standards for the *Journal of Commerce*.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education, the College of Management, the Alliance for the Commonwealth, Associated Industries of Massachusetts, and the Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership. The cost to register is \$195 before April 17, and \$220 after that date. For more information, contact Jack Hughes at the Division of Continuing Education at 7-7290.

Secretaries Day Gift Alternatives

Instead of flowers and candy, a national organization for administrative professionals suggests some non-wilting, inedible gift alternatives for Professional Secretaries Day on April 22.

Professional Secretaries International – The Association for Office Professionals (PSI) suggests observing Professional Secretaries Week (April 19–25) and Professional Secretaries Day with the following alternatives: registration for a seminar, an updated job description, a subscription to a professional magazine or posture-friendly furniture.

For adamant gift-givers, PSI suggests business-related items such as business cards, a desktop nameplate, a gift certificate to a business clothing store, or a reference book.

In Memoriam, Professor Peter Gordon

Professor Peter Gordon of the physics department died on March 10 after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) at the age of 59.

A 1958 graduate of the University of Louisville, Prof. Gordon received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University as a Physics National Science Foundation Fellow. His special area of interest was theoretical physics, and he published and delivered papers on quantum measurement theory and neural network theory throughout his career.

He joined the Boston State College faculty in 1965, and came to UMass Boston in 1982 when the two institutions merged. He taught a variety of physics courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and served on numerous committees, the faculty senate, and as graduate program director for the physics department. Professor Gordon continued to teach until last semester despite his battle with ALS. He will be missed by his many colleagues, students, and former students. He is survived by his wife Rae and their children.

.....

UMass Boston Makes Debut on Weekly TV Show

The Office of Public Information worked with Granville Productions, Inc., the producers of "Dawson's Creek," a primetime weekly show, providing information and materials that appeared in the show's March 17 episode. Dawson's Creek airs locally on WLVI-TV channel 56.

The UMass Boston viewbook, graduate and undergraduate catalogues and brochures were displayed in a scene which takes place at a college fair.

Our television "moment of fame" was mentioned in a number of calls received by the Office of Graduate Admissions during the week of March 17.

UMass Boston First Advances Towards \$50 Million Goal

The *UMass Boston First* Campaign reports good progress as Fiscal Year 1998 enters its final quarter. The University has acquired approximately \$5.5 million in cash gifts, pledges, bequests and gifts-in-kind towards this year's \$8 million goal. The number of new, first-time contributors to UMass Boston continued to increase this year, with a 30% increase over last year.

This quarter, Professor Philip Hart and his wife, Tanya, have made a gift of \$25,000 to the University endowment for the Philip and Tanya Hart Urban Economic Development Lecture Series. The series will complement a new graduate program in community economic development which will be housed in CPCS. The program is presently in the approval process.

Hart, a longtime CPCS faculty member and member of the

Campaign Cabinet, said that he and his wife felt it was important to give something back to the University. They put their gift towards the University endowment in order to make it eligible for the Massachusetts Higher Education Endowment Incentive Program, which will boost the Harts' gift by an additional \$12,500.

The Massachusetts Higher Education Endowment Incentive Program has challenged the University to raise \$1,045,760 in endowment funds in order to receive an additional \$522,880 through its one to two matching program this year.

Achievement of this year's \$8 million goal will bring the *UMass Boston First* Campaign to the \$25 million mark. Three and one half years remain in the five year, \$50 million campaign.

Bring Your Children to Work on April 23

If your school-aged children are curious about what you do at work, bring them with you on Thursday, April 23, "Bring Your Child to Work Day" at UMass Boston.

In addition to spending the day with mom or dad, your child will have a special opportunity to learn about Sodexo, *WUMB*, Healey Library, the Greenhouses and Public Safety. Throughout the day, Public Safety will also provide a free KidCare Photo ID booklet for parents to maintain current vital statistics, in the event a child is ever missing.

Expect more information and registration forms from Human Resources, or call Denise Nigro-McNair at 7-5150.

"Flowers of Hope" Fundraiser Benefits Cancer Patients

Yellow daffodils have been designated as "the flower of hope" by the American Cancer Society. They symbolize the belief that cancer research and education can provide answers that will help eliminate cancer.

On March 24 and 25, the Department of Human Resources sponsored campus "Daffodil Days," selling 10 daffodils for \$5.00 and daffodils in a vase for \$10.00. Proceeds support services for cancer patients, including free transportation to and from cancer treatments, mammography outreach, free skin cancer treatments, cancer prevention curricula for schools, and free goods and services, such as wigs, prostheses, and home care.

Mass Field Center Accepting Program Applications

The Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning is accepting applications for its 1998-1999 Massachusetts Academy for Teachers program. This professional development program provides teams of three to four K-12 classroom teachers with the opportunity to engage in year-long action research projects on topics relevant to their own school communities. Participants become Fellows of the Academy, and meet six times over the year to discuss and analyze their research.

Grant money, professional development points and graduate credit are available to fellows. For more information, contact the Mass Field Center at 7-7660 for a brochure and application as soon as possible. 1998-99 Fellows will be chosen by April 30.

Publications

English Professor **Louise Z. Smith** had her essay, "Homeless in the Golden Land: Joan Didion's Regionalism," published in the book, *Rethinking American Literature*, released in February by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Senior Fellow **Albert Cardarelli** of the McCormack Institute has written an article, "Rhetoric and Reality of Community Policing in Small and Medium-Sized Cities and Towns," which will be published in *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*.

Pine Forge Press has announced the publication of a newly revised edition of Prof. **Russell Schutt's** textbook, *Investigating the Social World*, which is described as "the most successful new research methods text to be published in the last 25 years."

Race, Law and Public Policy, Cases and Materials on Law and Public Policy of Race, a new book by Africana Studies Prof. **Robert Johnson Jr.**, was published in February by Black Classic Press.

Conference and Presentations

A conference co-sponsored by the **Gerontology Institute** and 13 other organizations, "Where will I live? Affordable Housing for the Elderly: Issues and Options for Massachusetts," was held at the State House on March 12. Over 280 people attended to hear discussion on the issues by speakers including State Representative Charlotte Golar Richie and other experts on issues of housing and the elderly.

Carol DeSouza, Americans With Disabilities Act coordinator and acting director of the Ross Center for Disability Services, will present "The Accessible Millenium: Exchanging Resources and Tools for a Barrier-free Future," at the Third International Conference on Higher Education and Disability in Innsbruck, Austria, in July. DeSouza is president of the International Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) and co-sponsor of the conference.

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies **Ron Polito** gave a public lecture, "Commercial Photography in 19th Century America" sponsored by the Friends of the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Ma. on Feb. 17. He presented the lecture and another talk on the identification of 19th century photographic processes at the opening of a 3-day photography workshop Feb. 18, sponsored by the National Park Service at the Longfellow National Historic site in Cambridge.

The Bernard Stotsky Lecture Series presented Dr. Stanley F. Turesky, director of congressional affairs for the U.S. Holocaust Museum, who spoke on "Stolen Assets? Neutral Bankers and Holocaust Victims' Accounts" on March 5. Dr. Turesky's visit was hosted by the **McCormack Institute**.

Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** of the English department and creative writing program read the role of Virgil in a staged reading of U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's translation of *Dante's Inferno* at the Manhattan Theater Club, New York City, on March 23. Other readers were Pinsky, and poets Louise Gluck and Frank

Bidart. Schwartz was also poet in residence at Trinity College, Hartford, CT., from March 4-15, and gave two public readings as part of the residency.

Elizabeth Sherman, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, organized a panel on "Women and Grassroots Activism" at a Wellesley College conference, *Women in American Political Activism* held in February at Wellesley College. **THE NETWORK** of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy was a co-sponsor of the conference.

English Prof. **Linda Dittmar** and Art Prof. **John Gianvito** were participants in a symposium, "The Role of Israeli Film School Production in Israeli Cinematography" sponsored by the Judaica Division of the Harvard College Library on March 9. Prof. Dittmar is also serving as program chair for the 1998 Meeting of the Society for Cinema Studies in San Diego, Ca., April 4-7. She has organized over 100 panels, workshops and other events which will be attended by scholars from the U.S. and overseas.

Prof. **Augusto Blasi** of the psychology department recently participated in two symposia. He gave the opening remarks and presented a paper on the methodology of sentence completion and its relation to ego development assessment at a symposium organized by the Washington University psychology department and the Institute on Social Thought. The symposium honored Dr. Jane Loevinger, considered by many the most important living personality assessment theorist, on the

occasion of her 80th birthday. At the National Meetings of the Society for Research on Adolescence in San Diego, which also honored Loevinger, Blasi presented a paper on the meaning that sincerity and phoniness have for adolescents. Prof. **Jill Rierdan** also presented a paper, on eating disorders, puberty, and depression.

Daniel Ortiz, associate director of the Healey Library, spoke at the University of Puerto Rico's Graduate School of Library and Information Science's 20th annual convention on March 13. His talk was titled, "Librarians, Architects of a New Information Service Paradigm: Trends and Forces Behind its Development."

Prof. **Elsa Auerbach** of the ESL program gave the keynote address, "From Connecting the Dots to Reading Between the Lines: Changing Perspectives on Family Literacy," at the Connections Through Literacy conference in Providence, RI.

Honors and Awards

In the January/February issue of *Change Magazine*, **Zelda Gamson** was one of 33 individuals named to the magazine's survey of Who's Who in Higher Education Senior Leadership, national leaders who have significantly influenced higher education in the 1990s. CPCS Dean **Ismael Ramirez-Soto** was hailed as one of the Young Leaders of the Academy in the same issue.

The **Division of Continuing Education** has received a gold medal for marketing excellence from the University

Continuing Education Association. The award recognizes a publication produced by the DCE entitled Comprehensive Programs in English as a Second Language.

Prof. **Louise Z. Smith** has been elected to a five-year term on the executive committee of the Modern Language Association's (MLA) Division on the Teaching of Literature. She will chair the committee for the 2001 MLA conference.

Prof. **Jacqueline Haslett** of the Human Performance and Fitness Program was honored with the Joseph McKenney Award from the Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD). She received MAHPERD's highest award for her exemplary service, leadership, and contributions to the youth of Massachusetts at a banquet held on March 15 at Wheaton College.

Albert Cardarelli, Senior Fellow, McCormack Institute, has been asked by the Boston Police Department to serve on the Regional Roundtable on Police Integrity, which will explore individual and organizational issues on integrity in law enforcement.

In the News...

Science News magazine highlighted the research of Prof. **Don Kalick** of the psychology department on perceptions of attractiveness and health in its February 7 issue. Kalick's research findings were also published in the January issue of *Psychological Science*.

Debra Wein, general manager of the Beacon Fitness Center, was a guest expert on *WABU-TV's* "Doctors on Call," on Sunday, March 15.

Pdraig O'Malley's op-ed piece, "Solution for Ireland?" appeared in *The Boston Globe* on January 23. O'Malley is a senior fellow at the McCormack Institute.

Dissertation Defenses

Prinyanthi Silva, Ph.D. candidate in gerontology, defends her dissertation, "Gender Identity Styles of Young, Middle Aged, and Old Women," on April 13. It will take place in the CPCS conference room, 4th floor, Wheatley Hall, at 4:15 p.m.

Lita Wilson Russell, Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, will defend her dissertation, "Self-Orientation: The Role of Culture, Gender, and Context," on April 3, in the Troy Lounge, second floor, Wheatley Hall, at 9:30 a.m.

Arne Boudewyn, Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, will defend his dissertation on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Troy Lounge, second floor, Wheatley Hall. It is titled "Adolescent Attachment to Parents as a Predictor of Adult Models of Self-in-Relationship: A Longitudinal Study."

New Programs

NERCHE has launched the Massachusetts Higher Education Executive Leadership Institute for senior administrators in Massachusetts public colleges and universities. It is a twelve-month program aiming to enhance the leadership abilities of senior administrators. **Mary Grant**, Vice Chancellor for Human

Resources, is one of the participants.

The **Gerontology Institute** is the new home of a national service which helps individuals understand and secure their pension rights. The National Pension Lawyers Network is a lawyer referral service which lists 650 attorneys in 50 states, willing to represent workers and retirees having problems claiming their pensions. The referral service is free. Attorney **Larry Gomes** has been hired to direct the network, which will complement the work of the Gerontology Institute's Pension Assistance Project.

For Your Information

The Office of Student Affairs has announced several changes in staffing. **Carol DeSouza**, ADA coordinator, will serve as acting director for the Lillian Semper Ross Center for Students with Disabilities. She takes the place of **James Wice**, who served as director from 1987 until February of this year.

Goldie Lengel will serve as acting director of Health Services until a search can be held for a permanent director to replace **David Stockton**, who retired in February. Lengel will continue as director of Nursing Services during this time.

A new office of Student Legal Services has been established to provide counseling, education, referral and where appropriate, direct representation to students in legal matters. **Joseph Samson** has been hired as director. A graduate of the Boston University School of Law, Samson is a trained mediator.

Congratulations

In February, **WUMB Radio** learned that its listenership has grown to an all time high of 55,000 listeners a week, a 25% increase over the last year, according to Arbitron, the national radio rating service.

Correction

Prof. **Martha Collins** of the English department was mistakenly identified as a former UMass Boston faculty member in the March Issue of the *University Reporter*. She is currently on leave from UMass Boston.

Puerto Rican Leader Visits Campus

One Day After Congressional Vote

Timing could not have been better for the March 5 campus visit by Rafael Hernández Colón, a former governor of Puerto Rico, law professor and leader of the island's Commonwealth movement.

The night before Colón's visit, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would let citizens of Puerto Rico determine their political status. If the bill is passed by the Senate, Puerto Ricans will vote on whether to become an independent country, the 51st state, or maintain or alter their commonwealth status.

"This is an unfair bill. You must let your senators know it's an unfair bill," Colón told a packed Small Science Auditorium. "The bill that was approved last night

by [a margin of] one vote was not a democratic bill," he said.

The commonwealth issue is being defined by the statehood, he said, blaming the bill's disagreeable definition of "commonwealth" on longtime rival and congressional Delegate Carlos A. Romero-Barcelo, a statehood proponent.

Throughout his lecture, Colón stressed that Puerto Rico was a nation when the U.S. invaded. "One hundred years later we are still suffering the consequences of the Spanish-American War," he said. "We were people with our own history, with a common culture ...

"We Puerto Ricans want to maintain our American citizen-

ship, and we want to remain Puerto Ricans and maintain our Puerto Rican citizenship," he told the audience, several of whom carried Puerto Rican flags and wore stickers denouncing statehood.

"We Puerto Ricans must recognize that we are divided in this issue," Colón said. "If we were of one mind, I am certain we would have resolved this problem with the United States a long time ago."

Colón's lecture was part of the Joiner Center's 1998 lecture series titled "The Spanish-American War of 1898: The Puerto Rican Experience" and co-sponsored by the Gastón Institute and the College of Public and Community Service.

Brome Story, Continued from Page 1

efficacy attitudes (the belief that you have control over your circumstances), self-world relationships (such as trust) and behavioral coping styles (a contextual ability to act on your own behalf).

Adolescents high in psychosocial competence reported a lower number of risk behaviors, according to Brome's past research. These results relate directly to Brome's long-term objective to provide an informational foundation for interventions aimed at reducing high risk sexual and drug-related behaviors.

Brome will be undertaking at least two studies—first, a qualitative one will use focus groups to find out how African American

adolescents assess themselves as sexual beings and explore how they characterize male-female relationships. This will help develop interview protocols.

A second, quantitative study will pilot protocols with a group of 50 adolescents to establish validity. Protocols will then be administered to a group of 150 adolescents. The results will provide a foundation for establishing a set of sexual styles among African American adolescents. The next step would be an examination of how various prevention interventions work for individuals with identified sexual styles.

"What most interests me is capturing adolescents' voices and ideas. Many television programs,

for example, have a limited idea of how the average teenager thinks about relationships and sexuality," says Brome. "So we end up with generic programs. I think I will end up advocating for adolescents based on what we learn about how they think, and we can be more effective that way," she adds.

Brome joined the faculty in 1983. She is co-author of a 1991 book, *Ecology, Ethnic Validity and Psychotherapy: A Psychosocial Competence Model*, and the author of numerous book chapters and papers. She received her BS in psychology from Brown University, and her MA in psychology and Ph.D. in clinical/community psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

bell hooks Addresses Packed Faculty Club

Those who showed up 15 minutes early to hear Dr. bell hooks found themselves out of luck when it came to sitting near the front. Many, in fact, were forced to commandeer a spot on the Faculty Club floor or prop themselves against a wall for 1-1/2 hours.

Despite the discomfort, the soft-spoken but fiery candor of author, feminist and social critic bell hooks kept the diverse audience at attention.

At UMass Boston March 24 to remember the late Paulo Freire, hooks, to no surprise to any familiar with her work, shared a sampling of her prolific insight on feminism, race relations, literacy and myriad other topics.

Freire was a Brazilian educator who died May 7, 1997, at age 75. Despite being poor, imprisoned and exiled from his native country, Freire was a world leader in the fight against poverty and oppression.

One of Freire's most famous works, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, has sold more than 600,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into numerous languages. Freire's books are required readings for many education and social science students and have been used to improve education for politically and socially disenfranchised groups.

Currently a distinguished professor of English at the City College of New York, hooks met Freire while she was a graduate student. The two shared an "intellectual kinship," she said. Though she had read Freire's writings, "meeting Paulo face to face was a far more powerful teaching than all his work," she said.

hooks said she was particularly moved at how receptive Freire was to her criticism of his sexism. "Freire behaved as though my critiques of him were necessary and useful," she said.

Formerly Gloria Jean Watkins, hooks adopted and lowercased the name of her outspoken great-grandmother. The 45-year-old Kentucky native is author of at least 17 books and countless essays and articles. She came to prominence in 1981 with *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*.

Self described as a "dissident, feminist thinker," hooks spoke of obstacles she and other black woman intellectuals face. "When people refer to black intellectuals or any other intellectuals, they usually mean men," she said.

"I don't think people realize how difficult it is for black women to find professors who really value their work," she said. "When I met Paulo, he took the time ... to validate me as a thinker," she added.

During her talk, hooks did not shy away from criticizing renowned black intellectuals and academics, many of whom seek monetary gain on the backs of the masses, she said. She also warned the audience not to confuse educators with intellectuals. "There is a major difference between intellectual engagement and academic intervention," she said.

Black writers, such as hooks and Freire, whose work extend across class structures, are often marginalized, delegitimized and dismissed as not being intellectuals, she said. Ironically, she said, most of her critics are black intellectuals.

hooks said an acquaintance once asked how it felt to be the most famous black woman intellectual. "When it comes to fame, what life has shown me is that the channel always changes," she answered.

hooks' visit was sponsored by the Bilingual ESL Studies program, the Graduate Student Assembly, the Center for World Languages, and the College of Public and Community Service. She was hosted by Professor Donald Macedo, whom she met through Freire.

Carson Scholars Achieve Despite Obstacles

Winning a Benjamin S. Carson Scholarship means that a student need not worry about tuition and fees while a student at UMass Boston. As a Carson scholar, a student is also eligible for an additional benefit—the Alexzandrina Young Book award, given to the Carson scholar or scholars with the highest grade point average annually. This year, the book award, which covers \$250 worth of book costs, was shared by Chukwuka Okafor, a junior bio-chemistry major, and Elisa Urena, a senior accounting and finance major.

Originally intended to intensify recruitment of students of color, eligibility for the Carson Scholarship was broadened two years ago to include any students who have experienced obstacles to a higher education. Both Urena and Okafor say that without the Carson Scholarship, getting a college education would have been much more difficult.

“Receiving the Carson scholarship is one of the reasons I chose UMass Boston over other schools I had been accepted to,” says Okafor, who also received a prestigious \$20,000 National Institute of Health scholarship this year. He adds that it was the security of having the Carson scholarship when he had no family members or others to depend on for support that allowed him to pursue his education.

Both Okafor and Urena credit the Carson scholarship with allowing them to focus on their studies rather than working to finance their educations. “The scholarship was such a gift, and I’ve worked harder to show how grateful I am,” says Urena, who came to this country from Guatemala with her family five years ago. “I don’t know if I would be in college without it.” Urena intends to work in accounting after graduating.

Dr. Benjamin S. Carson is the director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. His success and renown inspired the naming of a scholarship in his honor. Lana Jackman, senior academic and career advisor in the University Advising Center, was a member of the committee that established the scholarship. They were seeking an inspirational role model after whom to name the scholarship program. Carson gained worldwide recognition in 1987 for his part in separating siamese twins joined at the back of the head. A committee member read a story about him and his accomplishments in the *Reader’s Digest*.

After contacting Carson to ask permission to name the scholarship after him, they found out that he had spent two years as a child in Dorchester, and it was there that he decided to become a doctor.

Carson and his brother were raised by their mother, Sonya, whose own education ended in the 3rd grade. With her support, he overcame obstacles that might have led others to forego their goals and dreams. Carson’s story is chronicled in the book, *Gifted Hands*, written by Carson with Cecil Murphy, published by Zondervan Publishing House.

In that book, Carson tells of his mother’s guiding influence, the development of his strong religious convictions, and overcoming his own youthful violent temper in order to excel at school and win a scholarship to Yale University. He completed his medical studies at the University of Michigan. At the age of 33, Carson was appointed director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where he continues to practice medicine today. Dr. Carson’s achievements were recognized by UMass Boston with an honorary doctor of science degree in 1992.

The Alexzandrina Young Book Award is named after a long-time member of the University Advising Center who was a special advocate for students from the Boston Public Schools. It was established by Frank Pryor, the first graduate of the Carson Scholarship program and a Roxbury native who graduated with a degree in political science. He is now a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science at Howard University.

National Award-Winning Photo Exhibit Examines Lives of Welfare Recipients

Karen was the victim of childhood assault, a mother at the age of 14, and homeless for two years. Darla's husband died suddenly, leaving her in a state of shock with three small children to support and raise. Stacey was laid off from her job just before the birth of her son, whose life-threatening medical problems have demanded her constant care. Tenitha has struggled to overcome a childhood legacy of hardship and become educated to provide a role model for her six children.

These are some of the true stories of welfare recipients in the photo exhibit, *Families Receiving Welfare: Untold Stories* which was on display in the College of Public and Community Service Lobby (fourth floor, Wheatley) through the month of March.

Untold Stories chronicles the lives of seven women from Connecticut and Massachusetts who receive or have received welfare. Look at their lives through these award-winning photos and read their stories in the accompanying texts, and the stereotype of "welfare queens" will be replaced with vivid images of each woman's difficulties and aspirations.

Several of the photojournalists and the women they photographed were present at the opening reception of the exhibit on March 10. Photojournalist Joanne Ciccarello expressed thanks to the women who agreed to be photographed, and spoke of their generosity in sharing their daily lives in order to complete this project. Several of the women who were subjects of the

photographs also spoke, almost unanimously saying that they participated in the hopes of changing the images that people have of welfare recipients. Prof. Vicky Steinitz of CPCS also spoke at the opening.

The exhibit has garnered numerous awards. Paula Lerner's photographs of Darla won 1st Place Singles and Series Awards for Issue Reporting in the 1997 National Press Photographer's Association's Pictures of the Year, a nationwide contest which received 28,000 entries. They were also selected for publication in *American Photography 14*, a national juried competition, and received a gold medal in the Big Picture Awards, a competition sponsored by the New England chapter of the American Society of Media Photographers.

Joanne Ciccarello's photographs of Stacey and her son Zachary during a spinal treatment won an honorable mention in the Assignment Earth Photo Contest, sponsored by the Santa Fe Center for Visual Arts.

Jane Tyska's story and photos of Tenitha appeared in the *Somerville Journal* and won a 2nd place award for photo series in the Better Newspaper Contest, sponsored by the New England Press Association. Wendy Mimran's photographs of Karen appeared in publications distributed by the Massachusetts Campaign for Children. Other photojournalists contributing to the show are Christine Breslin, Beth Reynolds, and Heather Pillar.

Untold Stories first opened in June of 1997 at Boston City Hall. The exhibit then travelled to Wheelock College and Brandeis University before arriving at UMass Boston at the beginning of March. Jain Ravidich-Higgins of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy is credited for coordinating the exhibit on campus. She says it was a ten-month labor of love and belief.

"I thought the exhibit was important to bring to UMass Boston because when I look at my own ways of understanding issues, art is what catapults me into the experience, short of experiencing it myself. I wanted to expose people to these particular images, because the power of a photo exhibit can be a greater motivator than spending a whole day at a conference," she says.

Special thanks also goes to CPCS Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto and Associate Dean of CPCS Reebee Garofalo for their support and providing a space for the exhibit, and to the UMass Boston Women's Center, which paid for the reception.

Welfare was also the topic of a conference held on March 25. *Reclaiming Rights: Documenting and Organizing Around Welfare Reform*, featured talks by two College of Public and Community Service Professors. Professors Ann Withorn and Vicky Steinitz each made a presentation concerning women's welfare rights. It was co-sponsored by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and the Chancellor's Office.

Gen Ed Reform Effort to Pilot New Courses in Fall, 1998

"The desired product of general education is a person with the tools and habits of mind needed for ongoing learning, responsible participation in intellectual and civic life, and the capacity for continuing adaptation and growth."

From *The Aims of a General Education Program*,
Executive Summary, Proposed General Education Plan
for the University of Massachusetts Boston

Several years worth of work on a new plan for an undergraduate general education program reached a milestone in December when a proposed plan was endorsed by the Faculty Council. Since then, several working groups of faculty have been developing pilot courses for Fall, 1998, with the support of a \$100,000 grant from the University President's Office.

The plan approved in December lays out a general education program built on three sequential phases. The initial phase includes four courses or equivalent CPCS competencies during a student's first year: two in writing and composition, one in mathematics/quantitative reasoning, and a first year seminar (or CPCS equivalent) in which the student receives personal focused attention and assistance in making the transition to college.

The middle phase will include a sophomore/junior seminar, and a minimum of eight courses or competencies, with at least one and not more than three to be taken in the following areas: arts and humanities, natural sciences/mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, and world languages and cultures. During this phase, students will also be required to complete the diversity

requirement and pass the writing proficiency exam.

The final phase of the program would be the completion of a capstone experience, possibly an internship or independent study, which would synthesize what the student has learned, and bridge the transition to the student's future plans.

To come this far, general education reform required a plan that enjoyed the support of faculty and administrators, and built on present curricular strength. It will continue to require time and resources for its development and implementation.

"A common vision and agreement on a curricular structure are already an enormous accomplishment," says Peter Langer, who became director of general education development in 1997. "But now we must do what we've said we think is good for our students," he adds. Langer says that groups of faculty are meeting every week to develop new syllabi and materials for pilot courses. Seventeen sections of first year seminars have been scheduled so far.

"To me, the most important part of the gen ed plan is the first year seminars," comments Prof. Estelle Disch of the sociology department, who co-chairs the

general education steering committee with Langer. "It is important to welcome new students in an intimate classroom situation where they can get real practice in reading and writing," she adds. The first year seminars will also aim to assist students in learning about and using campus resources, such as the library and computer services. Each seminar will be taught by a faculty member assisted by a undergraduate "peer mentor," and linked to a professional staff academic advisor.

Disch adds that implementing the general education plan will depend on the allocation of sufficient resources. For example, the capstone experience called for in the third phase of the plan may not be mandated, because many departments lack the faculty and other resources to require it. Nonetheless, many students already undertake a capstone experience in the form of an honors program or internship.

Each course or seminar will be piloted, assessed and revised, and then returned to the Faculty Council for final approval. Full implementation of the general education reform plan is not expected to take place until Fall, 2000.

April Conference and Forum Address Diversity in the Academy

On April 7, diversity in the academy will be the topic at a day-long program of events at the John F. Kennedy Library, sponsored by UMass Boston. A conference, "Diversity and Academic Standards: In a Different Mirror" will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This conference will be the first in the country to explore current debates centering on academic standards and issues of diversity. Workshops on a variety of topics, including redefining academic disciplines, grades, standards and learning, and student perspectives on academic success will be held. Lisa Fiol-Matta, assistant professor of English, City University of New York, will give the lunchtime keynote address. Registration is required, but the conference is free to UMass Boston community. Off-campus registration fee is \$20.00, and \$8.00 for students. Lunch is included with registration.

The seventh event of The Forum for the 21st Century: Shaping Boston's Future will be held April 7 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Library.

Titled "Paying Attention to Diversity in the Academy: Who Benefits and Who Loses?," the event will feature the following speakers: Troy Duster of UC, Berkeley; Elizabeth Minnich of The Union Institute; Nathan Glazer of Harvard University; David Wong, Brandeis University; and Esther Kingston-Mann of UMass Boston.

Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto of the College of Public and Community Service will serve as moderator. Edgar Beckham, Program Officer at the Ford Foundation will be commentator. The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, call 7-6800.

Molnar Elected New Student Trustee

The Student Trustee Election was held in the third week of February. According to Administration officials, this election had the second highest voter turnout in the University's history. Chad Molnar, a junior, majoring in both political science and Spanish, won the election.

Born and raised in Miami Florida, Molnar is a resident of Acton, Massachusetts. He participated in the Leadership Development Program from 1995-1996. His mentor was UMass President William Bulger. In addition, Molnar is a graduate of the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, class of 1997. "I look forward to working with the student senate and the administration to better student life on campus," stated Molnar.

Molnar assumes his trustee responsibilities on July 1.

Labor Forum Held at Kennedy Library in March

The Labor Resource Center, the College of Public and Community Service, and the Massachusetts AFL-CIO held a public policy forum, "Work and Family: Putting People First," at the Kennedy Library on March 4. The purpose of the forum was to highlight labor's public policy agenda. In attendance were gubernatorial candidates Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, Patricia McGovern, and Raymond Flynn.

Policy priorities such as the need for greater economic security, improved public education, curbing privatization, workforce development, and protections for the right to organize unions were highlighted by experts from Boston-area universities and labor leaders. The forum was attended by over 200 union members and policy makers, and was brought to a humorous closing by University President William Bulger.

A compilation of the policy position papers, entitled "Work & Family: Putting People First," is available through the Labor Resource Center at 7-7426.

Once Again, UMB Garners Awards at Spring Flower Show

Plants of the Jurassic Age—the age of the great dinosaurs—live on, even as the animals they sustained vanished from the face of the earth millions of years ago. This was the message of the UMass Boston exhibit at the 1998 New England Spring Flower Show held March 7-15 at the Bayside Exposition Center.

The exhibit, created by greenhouse director James Allen and his work/study students, held pots of ferns, mosses, cycads, and other plants dating back to ancient times, and provided informational placards and brochures to provide an understanding of their place in the Jurassic Age of the world, and today.

The exhibit drew many people, especially families, who were

drawn by the fossils that Allen used to punctuate the plant display. The UMass Boston display stood out as a particularly educational one among the many lush displays of flower gardens, gazebos, community gardens, wildflower and herb gardens. “In spite of the fact that putting on a flower show exhibit is a lot of work, it’s all worth it when I see school groups coming through and the enjoyment that they get from it,” says Allen.

This year, the UMass Boston exhibit garnered a bronze medal and an educational certificate from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, sponsors of the show for 127 years. Proceeds from the Flower Show benefit projects and programs of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Commencement to be held May 30

UMass Boston will celebrate its 30th commencement on Saturday, May 30, 10:45 a.m., at the Bayside Exposition Center. This year’s commencement speaker will be historian and author David McCullough.

If you are interested in working Commencement, please contact Gail Hobin at 7-5310 for more information.

(Stay tuned for more Commencement information in next month’s issue of the University Reporter.)

LLOP Students Build Community Through Research

Not all undergraduates get a chance to conduct public policy research that may influence their community. But for the past three years at UMass Boston, students in the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program (LLOP) have undertaken studies with findings that may prove valuable to the Latino community.

Next month, as part of the Gastón Institute Speakers’ Series, LLOP students will present their research to the campus community, and this summer they will present papers at a national conference in Washington, D.C.

The program aims to match each student with a faculty mentor,

said Maria Quiñones, LLOP regional coordinator and project manager at Gastón Institute. Students who do not conduct research complete literature reviews.

Through her study titled “Improving motivation for higher education in the population of Latino high-school students,” Yesenia Heath is surveying Latino juniors at Dorchester High School. She hopes to create solutions to increase Latino youth aspirations toward higher education. Her mentor is Carol Hardy-Fanta, research director at the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and research associate at the Gastón Institute.

Paper’s presented by last year’s students included “The Impact of Welfare Reform on Latino Immigrants” by Meiver de la Cruz, “Representation of Latinos in State Government” by Jaime Mendez, and “Health Care Access for Latinos: A Jamaica Plain Case Study” by Magalis Troncoso.

In addition to providing research opportunities, LLOP is a source of support. “We try to do some activities that are fun activities, where they become a group and gain strength from each other,” Quiñones said. “I think they have sense of community within the program.”